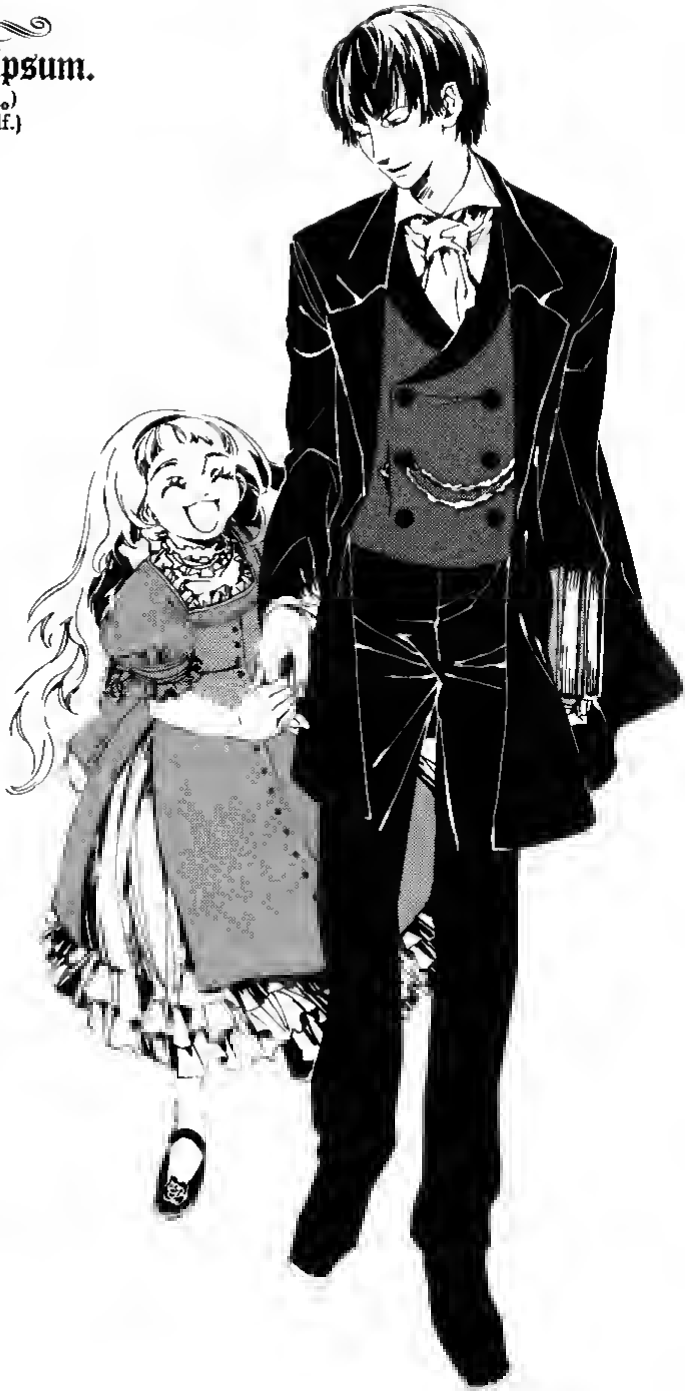
Chapter 6

第6話

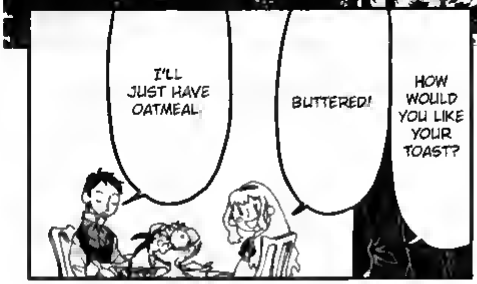
Cognosce te ipsum.

(汝自らを知れ。)

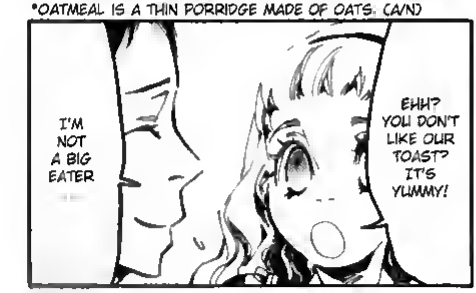
(Know Thyself.)

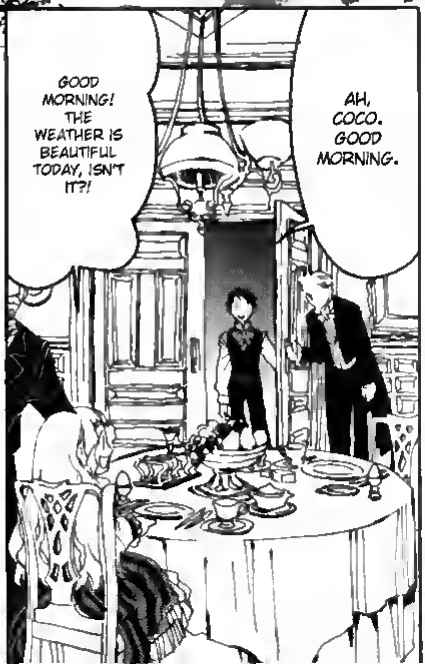


smile
smile
OKAAAAY!
BREAK-FAST WILL BE SERVED ONCE I'M DONE BRUSHING YOUR HAIR
I'M NOT ...
ES-PECIALLY!
*hehehe
MY, YOU SURE ARE IN A GOOD MOOD THIS MORNING!
OH! AM I?



*OATMEAL IS A THIN PORRIDGE MADE OF OATS. (A/N)





I OFTEN TELL HIM HE DOESN'T EXIST SOLELY FOR THE PURPOSE OF EATING
JEEZ... YOU SHOULDN'T SAY THINGS LIKE THAT, ARTHUR!
I KNOW.
IT'S PROOF OF HIS LOW-CLASS BIRTH.
"DON'T LIVE IN ORDER TO EAT. EAT IN ORDER TO LIVE!" IS AN ENGLISH SAYING. (A/N)
THIS IS NO TIME TO BE ENJOYING YOURSELF.
YOU'LL HAVE TO FORGIVE ME.
BUT YOU'RE ALWAYS SO PALE! YOU'LL NEVER PERK UP IF YOU DON'T EAT PROPERLY ...
"PALE"
HE MIGHT NOT LOOK IT, BUT NIDELL'S GOT QUITE AN APPETITE!
NIDELL IS USING YOU FOR THE POWER YOU HOLD AS MARQUISE.

THERE ARE THOSE WHO WILL BE KIND TO YOU BECAUSE YOU'RE RICH. THEY'LL USE YOU FOR NOTHING BUT THEIR OWN GOALS
EVEN AMONG THE NOBLES, I'M SURE YOU'VE MET PEOPLE LIKE THAT, RIGHT?
JUST HOW DUMB DO YOU THINK I AM?
I'M NOT TRYING TO TRICK YOU...
HOW SAD
...
...
...
おバカだ★
REALLY DUMB
SOMETIMES THEY EVEN GIVE ME CANDY JUST FOR SIGNING DOCUMENTS I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND!
THERE ISN'T ANY-BODY LIKE THAT! EVERY-BODY'S SO NICE TO ME!
MISS COCO...
THEY'VE GOT FILLINGS, AND THEY COME IN THESE BIG, BEAUTIFUL BOXES...
WHAT THEY'RE DOING IS CALLED "USING" YOU.
+0
0.

THOUGH I SUPPOSE IT'S NOT AS IF HE'D JUST SAY WHAT HE REALLY FELT.
HOW ...
THEN BY ALL MEANS, WHY NOT ASK NIDELL AND SEE WHAT HE SAYS?
BAM!
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
TH ...
THERE'S A REASON WHY SOME ARE NOBLES AND OTHERS ARE MEMBERS OF THE LOWER CLASS.
IF YOU LET YOUR GUARD DOWN AROUND THOSE OF LOW BIRTH
YOU'RE JUST GOING TO GET HURT.
HOW CAN YOU ... SAY SUCH CRUEL THINGS, ARTHUR ...?
BECAUSE I CARE ABOUT YOU.

THINK ABOUT IT CAREFULLY.
THAT REASON ...
NIDELL ...
NIDELL WILL BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN ALL OF THIS
I DON'T BELIEVE THAT LIAR FOR A SECOND
"THOUGH I SUPPOSE IT'S NOT AS IF HE'D JUST SAY WHAT HE REALLY FELT..."
.....

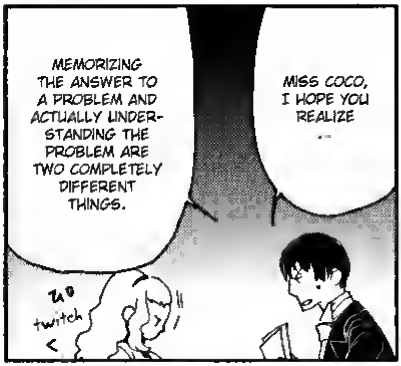
SFX: BA-DUMP BA-DUMP BA-DUMP
Hiding for some reason
IF YOU'RE REALLY A LOLICON, JUST SAY SO ALREADY!
YOU'RE TAKING THIS TOO FAR, NORA.
GASP!
COME OFF IT, NIDELL!
"WHAT AN AWFUL CONVERSATION..."
GULP
I SAW YOU! HOLDING MISS COCO!
HMPH.
BA-DUMP
IF SHE WEREN'T THE MARQUISE, I'D NEVER EVEN TAKE A SECOND GLANCE AT HER!
HOW ARE YOU NOT ?!
cleaning rag
I'M NOT !!
HOW AWFUL ... I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU REALLY WERE A LOLICON THIS WHOLE TIME ...!
SFX: SNIFFLE

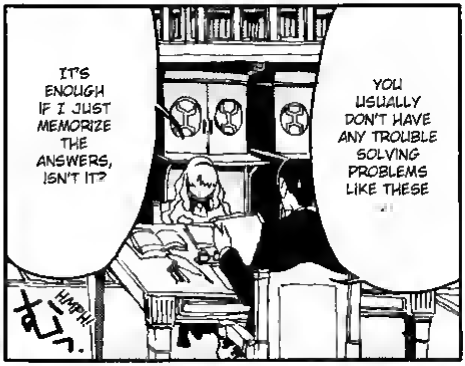
I'VE ONLY BEFRIENDED HER BECAUSE IT SUITS MY PURPOSES!
AUGHHH
WHAT WAS THAT?!
come off it!!

I'M SCARED ...
.....
MISS COCO, IS THERE ANYTHING YOU DESIRE?
COCO, DEAR, THIS CANDY IS DELICIOUS!
DEAR COCO ...
NO ...!
MISS COCO
DEAR COCO

I'M EXHAUSTED ...
WHAT'S WITH HER?
STUPID LOUGON!
WHY ARE YOU CRYING?!
AGH ...
BONG~ BONG
ボーン...
click
NO, NO, NO! DON'T GET DISTRACTED!! REMEMBER WHAT YOUR ORIGINAL GOAL WAS!
SHE CERTAINLY IS CUTE, BUT SHE'S JUST A TINY LITTLE THING, A CHILD... THAT'D BE A CRIME--
NOW, TRUTHFULLY... IF COCO REALLY WASN'T THE MARQUISE, WHAT WOULD I DO...?
shake
shake
gasp!
no fwsh
IF COCO WASN'T THE MARQUISE, SHE...
.....
MY STOMACH HURTS...
gurgle
gurgle
SO WHY... DO I FEEL THIS OVERWHELMING SENSE OF GUILT ..?
BUT IT'S NOT AS IF SHE SAID ANYTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY, AT LEAST FOR HER
I'VE BEEN WORRYING EVER SINCE THAT CONVERSATION WITH NORA

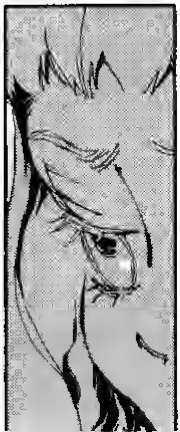
THE NEXT DAY ...
IS SOMETHING WRONG?
MISS COCO ...


MISS COCO, I HOPE YOU REALIZE ...
MEMORIZING THE ANSWER TO A PROBLEM AND ACTUALLY UNDERSTANDING THE PROBLEM ARE TWO COMPLETELY DIFFERENT THINGS.
twitch


YOU USUALLY DON'T HAVE ANY TROUBLE SOLVING PROBLEMS LIKE THESE
IT'S ENOUGH IF I JUST MEMORIZE THE ANSWERS, ISN'T IT?
HMPH!

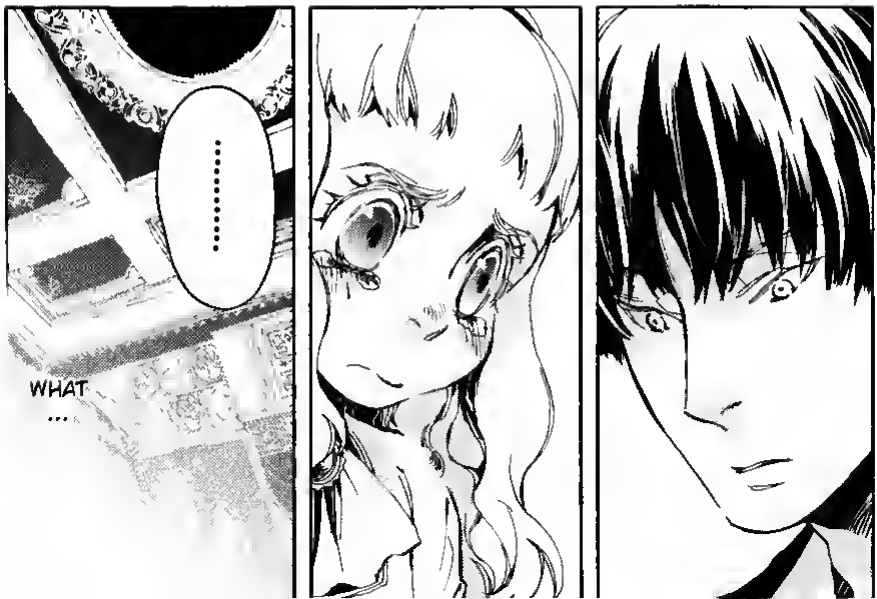
shove
W-
I'M DONE FOR TODAY.

HUH ?
IS IT THAT I'M NOT SMART ENOUGH?
whisper



PLEASE, WAIT!
GRAB!
LET GO OF ME!!
Nora-style
WHAM!
WHY HIT ME?
ARTHUR WAS RIGHT ...
"I'VE ONLY BE-FRIENDED HER"
I'M THE MARQUISE ...
"BECAUSE IT SUITS MY PURPOSES" ...
AND YOU'RE NOTHING BUT ONE OF THE WORKING CLASS, NIDELL!

AS A TOOL TO MOVE UP IN THE WORLD ...!!
YOU JUST WANT TO USE ME


.....
WHAT ...

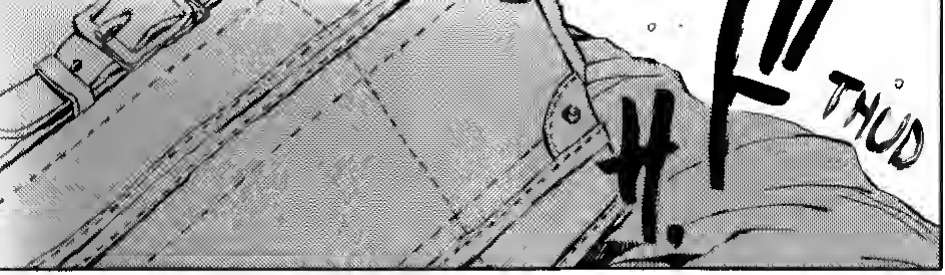
THE WORDS WON'T COME OUT ...
HOW STRANGE ...
MISS CO-
NO.
WHAT DO I SAY
AT A TIME LIKE THIS ...?
WHAT AM I HESI-TATING FOR?
NO MORE!
WHY DID I TRUST YOU?! I MUST LOOK LIKE A FOOL ...
... GET OUT.
I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOUR FACE AGAIN!
GET OUT, AND DON'T COME BACK

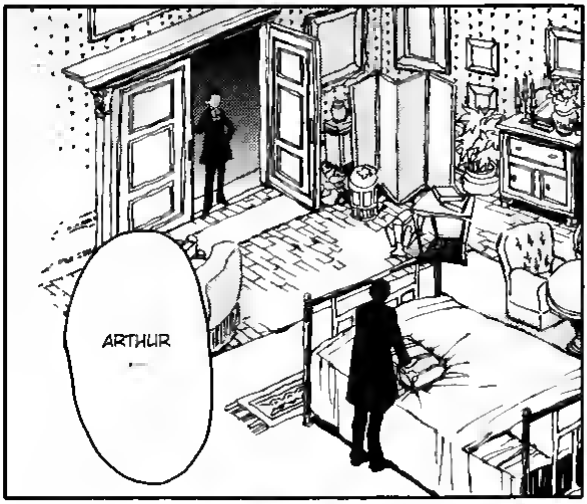
SFX: WHISPER WHISPER

I WOULD ASK YOU TO TAKE FOOD TO HER,
BUT I UNDERSTAND THE REASON SHE'S IN THERE IS BECAUSE SHE DOESN'T WANT TO SEE YOU, SIR NIDELL
... I SEE ...

YOU MUST TAKE YOUR LEAVE.
HUH ?
AS THE MASTER OF THE HOUSE HAS DISMISSED YOU,
DO YOU THINK YOU WILL BE ABLE TO FIND EMPLOYMENT AS A TUTOR ELSEWHERE?
PLEASE ACCEPT MY ...

THAT'S RIGHT
FROM THE VERY START
I NEVER BELONGED HERE


THUD

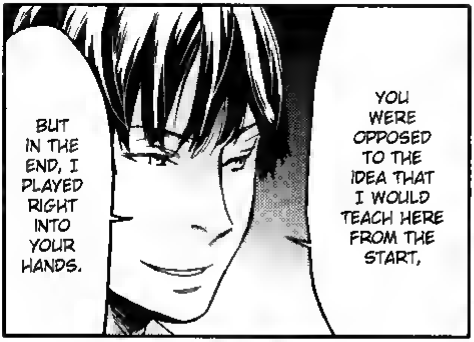

ARTHUR

RUNNING AWAY AGAIN?

YOU CAME HERE TO TAKE ME BACK WITH YOU, DIDN'T YOU?
YOU SHOULD BE HAPPIER

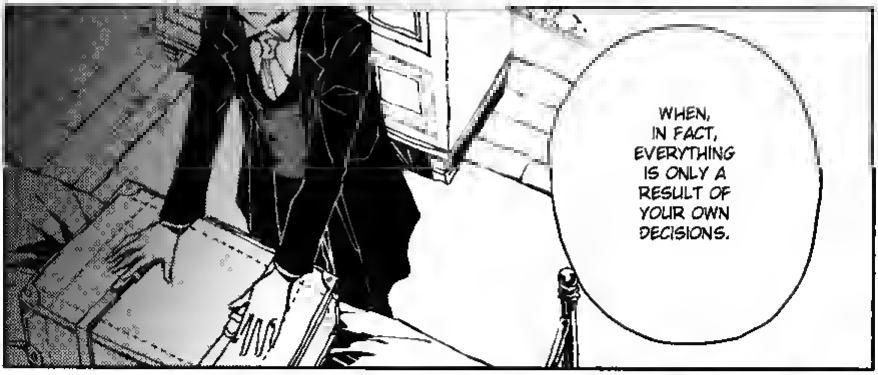
NO RESPONSE HM
I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO BE ABLE TO TAKE MY TIME AND CRUSH YOU SLOWLY
.....

GIVING UP COMPLETELY
THAT'S VERY MUCH LIKE YOU.


YOU WERE OPPOSED TO THE IDEA THAT I WOULD TEACH HERE FROM THE START,
BUT IN THE END, I PLAYED RIGHT INTO YOUR HANDS.

I SUPPOSE YOU WANT ME TO THANK YOU FOR ATTEMPTING TO SPEAK MY MIND FOR ME WHEN I MYSELF HAD NO DESIRE TO?

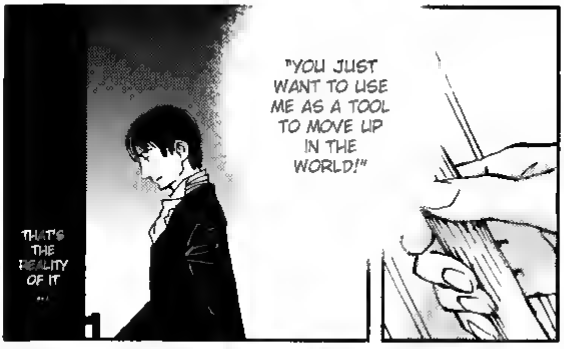
SO YOU DO HAVE THE COURAGE TO LOOK ME IN THE EYE.
YOU ENJOY NOTHING MORE THAN BLAMING OTHERS!


WHEN, IN FACT, EVERYTHING IS ONLY A RESULT OF YOUR OWN DECISIONS.

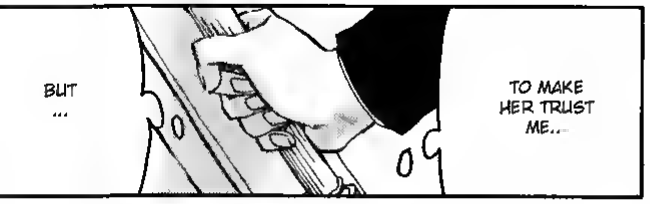
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN THAT WAY.

I WAS WELL AWARE OF THAT FROM THE START.
YOU HAVE NO THOUGHT TO SPARE FOR THOSE WHO ARE YOUR VICTIMS?
ARE YOU SO BUSY PLAYING THE VICTIM
UNABLE TO FIGHT BACK WITH WORDS, SO YOU RESORT TO BRUTE STRENGTH?
WHAT'S THIS?
GRAB
ARTHUR
HARDLY THE ACT OF A BRAVE MAN
.....
BUT
THAT DOES NOT ALSO MEAN IT IS BRAVE.
WHAT YOU SAY IS ALWAYS CORRECT.

BUT AT LEAST ...
WITHOUT A WORD TO ME, LEAVING ALL THAT RESPONSIBILITY TO FALL ON MY SHOULDERS.
JUST LIKE WHEN YOU ESCAPED FROM THE BARON'S HOUSE ...
IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE SO AFRAID OF?
AND I TAKE FULL RESPONSI-BILITY FOR IT.
MISS COCO KNOWS WHAT A TRAITOR YOU ARE.
.....
... SHEESH.
THUD.
clack
wobble


"YOU JUST WANT TO USE ME AS A TOOL TO MOVE UP IN THE WORLD!"
THAT'S THE REALITY OF IT ...

I HAD TO DECEIVE HER...
BUT EVEN SO .
THERE'S NO DENYING IT.


BUT ...
TO MAKE HER TRUST ME...

I GET THE SHORT END OF THE STICK, ONCE AGAIN...
カ CLACK
ツ ー ...

NO MATTER WHAT ...
I WILL NOT LIE TO MISS COCO.

BLAZE
ゴオオオオオオ
!!
crackle
パチ
crackle
パチ
crackle
パチ

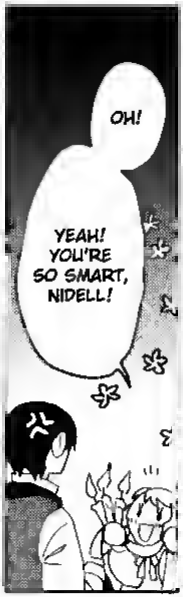
crackle
パチ
crackle
パチ

crackle
パチ
.....?
crackle
パチ
crackle
パチ

CLICK
カチャ
crackle
パチ
FROM INSIDE THE ROOM ...?

NIDELL?!
crackle
pop
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, MISS COCO?!
STOP! IT'S OKAY!
IT'S EMPTY
QUICK, PUT IT OUT...

FLAP
NOO-OO!
IN ANY CASE, I'M PUTTING IT OUT!


OH!
YEAH! YOU'RE SO SMART, NIDELL!

IT'S NOT OKAY! YOU STARTED A FIRE ?!
JUST TO BURN THIS USELESS STUFF!
THEN USE THE FIREPLACE, PLEASE!
pop
crackle

AH!

WHACK

EEEEK!
MISS COCO?!
WHUD
OW ...
pop
crackle
crackle
crackle
crackle

MISS COCO!
NOOO! MY HAIR ... !!!
crackle
pop
sizzle
WHAM
NIDELL!
YOU'LL BURN YOUR-SELF!
OUCH!
THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO WORRY ABOUT THAT!

...
OH.
IN THE END ...
I CAN'T BEAR TO LOSE HIM...!

squeeze

ブス…
ブス…

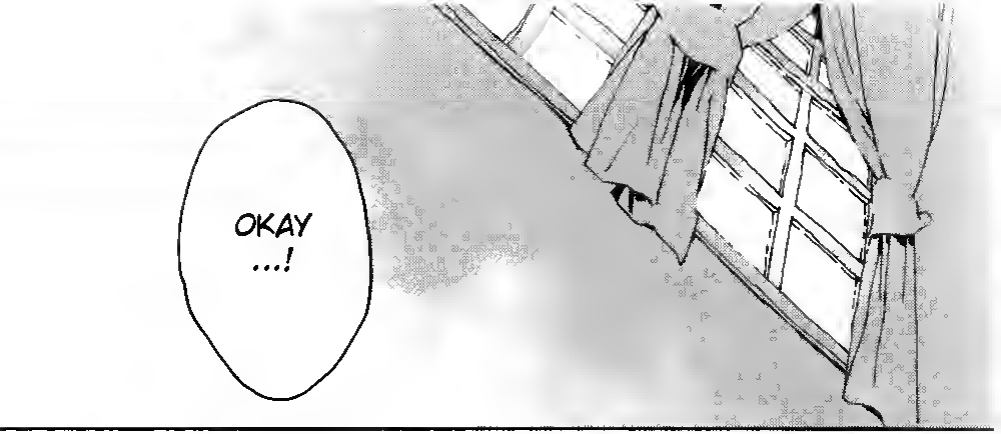
IT'S FINALLY OUT...
……

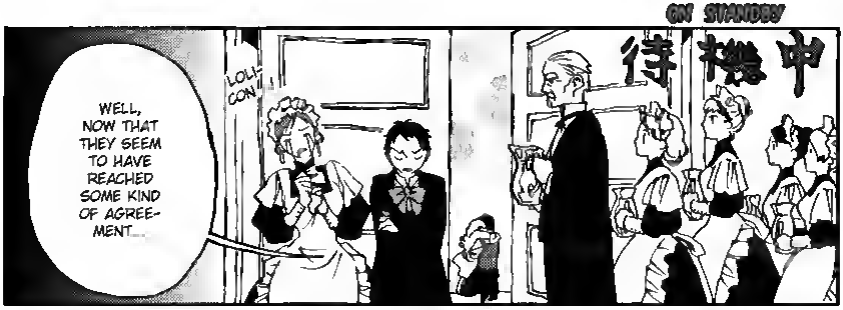
SOB
SOB
?!

M-MISS COCO?! DID YOU GET BURNED?!
I KNEW IT WAS HOPELESS

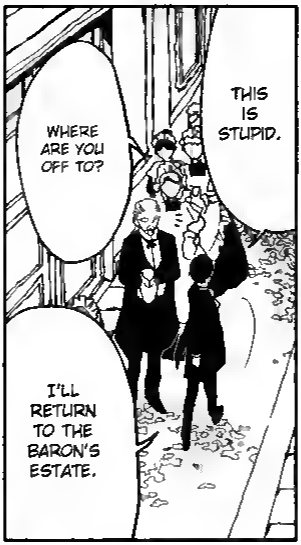
I THOUGHT ABOUT SO MANY THINGS ...
HOW YOU WANT A TITLE ...
AND TO YOU, I'M SOMEONE TO BE USED ..
BUT .. I DON'T WANT YOU TO HAVE TO USE PEOPLE AS TOOLS...
BUT... BUT... EVEN IF I DON'T WANT YOU TO HAVE TO DO THAT...
WHAT I MEAN IS..
OOH... IT'S NO GOOD...
... MISS COCO?
I STILL ...
REALLY LIKE YOU, NIDELL!

EVERY-LITTLE THING IS GONNA BE ALL RIGHT!
HUH?
stab
LOVE & PEACE
TRUMPET
THAT IS ENTIRELY UP TO YOU TO DECIDE, MISS COCO.
BUT ...
I HAVE NO SAY IN WHAT YOU BELIEVE OR WHAT YOU DON'T BELIEVE ...
I
LIKE YOU TOO, MISS COCO!


OKAY ...!


ON STANDBY
待機中
LOU-CON
WELL, NOW THAT THEY SEEM TO HAVE REACHED SOME KIND OF AGREE-MENT...

I'VE NO INTEREST IN A MAN WHO JUST WANTS TO PLAY HOUSE.

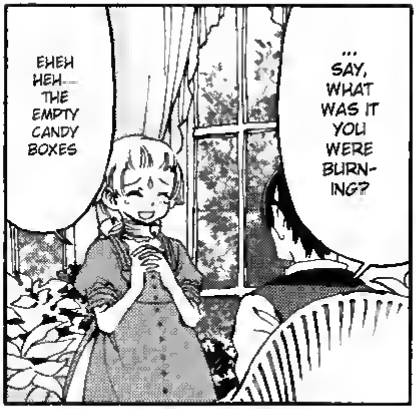

WHERE ARE YOU OFF TO?
THIS IS STUPID.
I'LL RETURN TO THE BARON'S ESTATE.

IS HE STILL TO BE FIRED?
IF IT IS MISS COCO'S WISH.

"IT IS AN ILL BIRD THAT FOULS ITS OWN NEST."
IT WILL BE NICE TO NOT HAVE ME AROUND.
OF COURSE IT WILL!!
WHA-?! BUT, ARTHUR! YOU DECIDED TO DO THIS!
HOW CAN YOU NOT HOLD OUT UNTIL THE BITTER END?!
I SHALL ARRANGE FOR A CARRIAGE.
WELL DONE, SIR.
NATURALLY.

I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING
THE BARON YOU WILL BECOME.

IT SUITS YOU.
IT'S NOT ODD?
I flutter


EHEH HEH— THE EMPTY CANDY BOXES
... SAY, WHAT WAS IT YOU WERE BURNING?

HEH HEH HEH ...

AS LONG AS YOU'VE THOUGHT ABOUT YOUR ACTIONS, IT'S OKAY ...
I'M SO SORRY YOU WERE INJURED BECAUSE OF IT, NIDELL ...

I LEARNED SOMETHING GOOD TOO.

IT SEEMS I NO LONGER FEAR IT
NIDELL.

WELL, THERE'S A BRIGHT SIDE TO ALL THIS, TOO.
THE WEIGHT OF THOSE WORDS ...
?

I FOUND WHAT'S REALLY IMPORTANT TO ME!

Bolt & Lantern

Asuka Katsura Presents

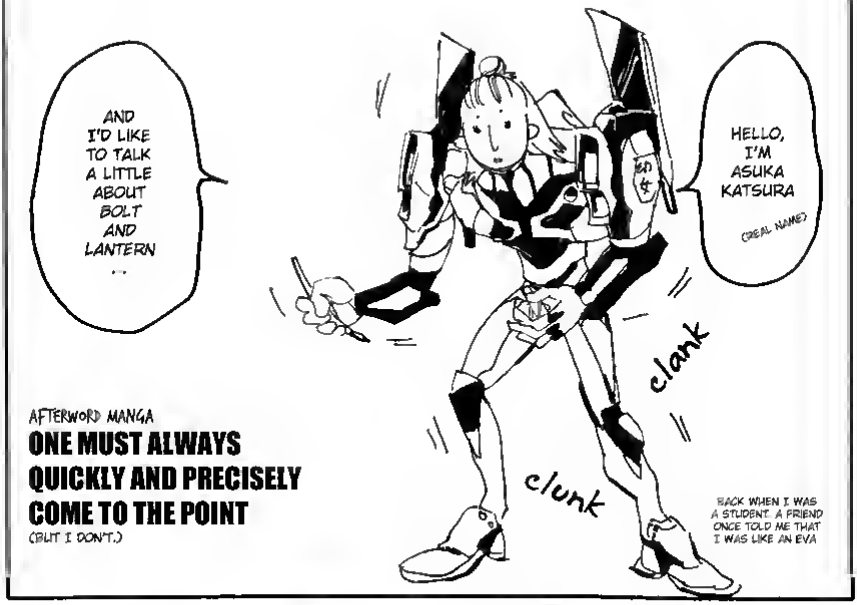
Misce stultitiam consiliis brevem, dulce est desipere in loco.

「僅かの愚かさを思慮に混ぜよ、時に理性を失うことも好ましい」

[Mix a little foolishness with your prudence:
sometimes it's desirable to throw reason to the wind.]

Bolt & Lantern...QED.

Asuka Katsura


AND I'D LIKE TO TALK A LITTLE ABOUT BOLT AND LANTERN . . .
HELLO, I'M ASUKA KATSURA
(REAL NAME)
clank
clunk
BACK WHEN I WAS A STUDENT. A FRIEND ONCE TOLD ME THAT I WAS LIKE AN EVA

AFTERWORD MANGA

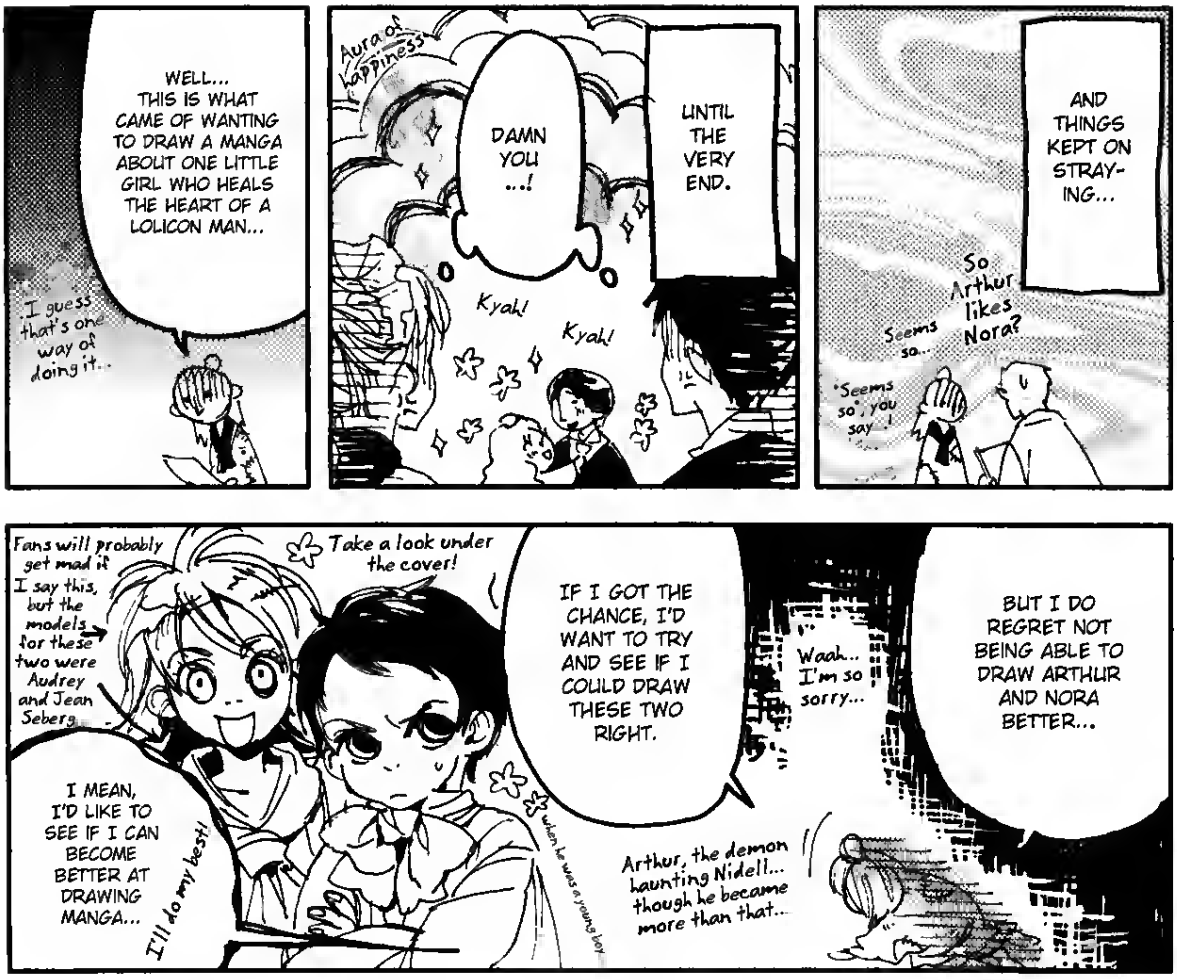
ONE MUST ALWAYS QUICKLY AND PRECISELY COME TO THE POINT

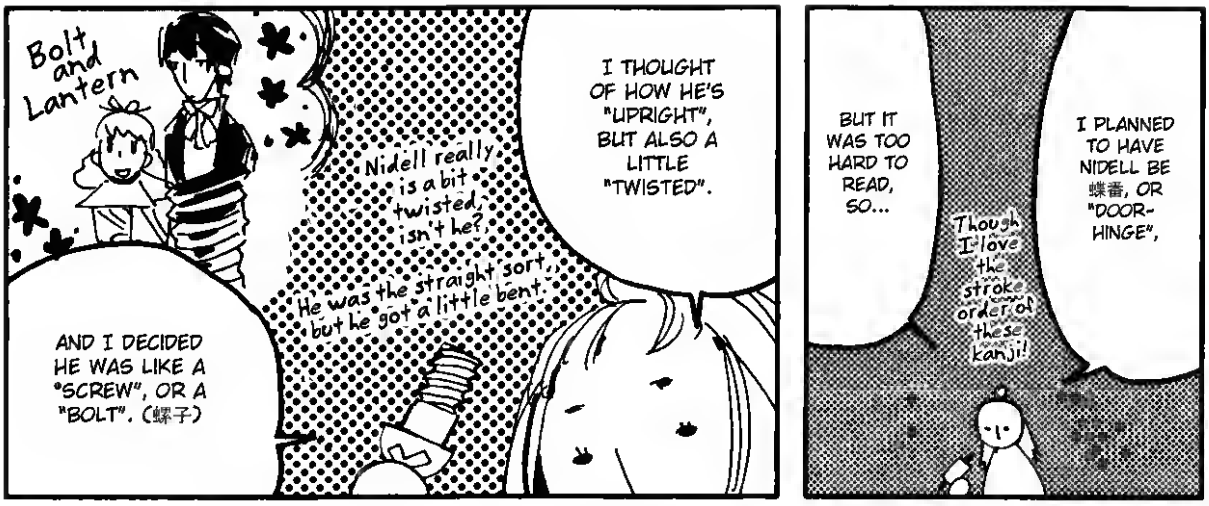
(BUT I DON'T.)

SHOULDER PAD "LITTLE GIRL"

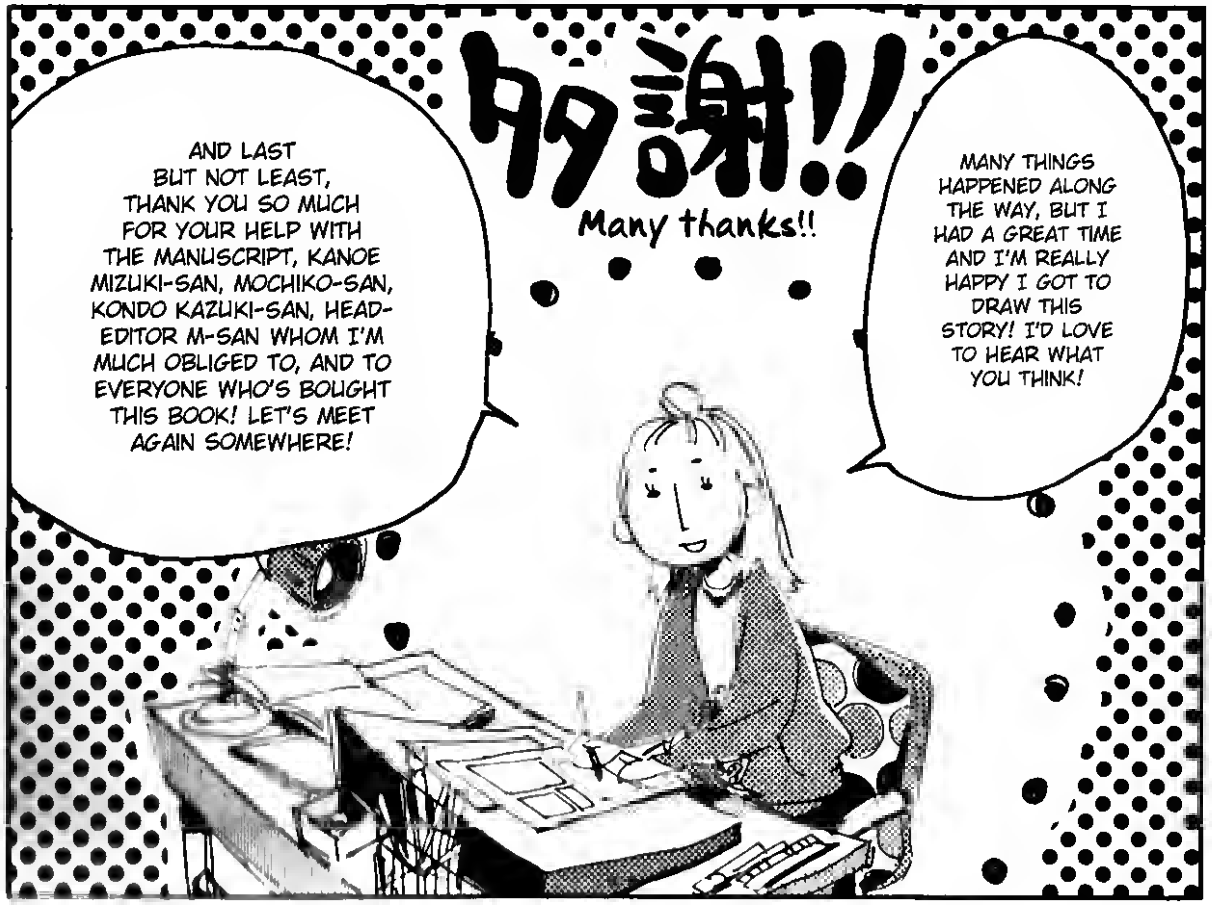
BOOK ALICE

Doesn't look a thing like him
IN THE END, I WASN'T ABLE TO MAKE ANY USE OF IT.
Huh ...
great
O Oscar sama
I GOT REALLY SUCKED INTO OSCAR WILDE, BUT...
A real hedonist
haah haah
THAT WAS WHEN I STARTED READING ENGLISH LITERATURE TO LEARN MORE.
Hmm compiled huh...?
Dickens
For Coco.. I thought about going with "Colette" but it's a French name.
I've always liked names that begin with "N", like "Neal" or "Nickole"
As a last name
BUT THAT WAS A LITTLE TOO OBVIOUS, SO I PARODIED "ALICE LIDDELL" INSTEAD, AND GOT "NIDELL".
FOR A STRONG LOLICON IMAGE, I THOUGHT ABOUT GOING WITH "LEWIS",
Wonderland
NOW, THE MAIN CHARACTERS' NAMES...
BUT IT WAS ACTUALLY REALLY, REALLY HARD ...
"I CAN'T PASS UP THIS A CHANCE LIKE THIS!!!" WAS MY IMMEDIATE REPLY
Can you handle working on two books at the same time?
I- I'll do it!!
IT WAS AROUND THEN THAT I'D JUST SIGNED ON FOR A SERIES WITH ANOTHER COMPANY.
Gothic Lolita
Huh ?
Okay, this is where we'll end the serialization.
Mr.M
THIS AND THAT HAPPENED, AND WHEN I HAD THREE STORIES FINISHED ...
"RAR!"
So he's the man with the most beautiful face in the whole manga.
BY THE WAY, I FIRST WROTE ARTHUR AS A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN DISGUISING HERSELF AS A MAN.
I was so sad to part with those eyelashes.
Ha ha ha ha ha ha
I'D POURED EVERYTHING INTO IT TO HAVE IT SERVE AS A SAMPLE OF MY WORK ...
I at least wanted to draw the conflict between the siblings.
Hahaha my first serialization, and two books at the same time
Everyone was just getting angry...
I'D DECIDED ON THE GENERAL PLOT IN THE BEGINNING, BUT... WHAT COULD I DO WITH WHAT HAD ALREADY HAPPENED IN THE FIRST CHAPTER?


WELL... THIS IS WHAT CAME OF WANTING TO DRAW A MANGA ABOUT ONE LITTLE GIRL WHO HEALS THE HEART OF A LOLICON MAN...
I guess that's one way of doing it...
Aura of happiness
DAMN YOU! ...!
UNTIL THE VERY END.
Kyah! Kyah!
AND THINGS KEPT ON STRAY-ING...
So Arthur likes Nora?
Seems so...
"Seems so", you say...!
Fans will probably get mad if I say this, but the models for these two were Audrey and Jean Seberg.
Take a look under the cover!
I MEAN, I'D LIKE TO SEE IF I CAN BECOME BETTER AT DRAWING MANGA...
I'll do my best!
IF I GOT THE CHANCE, I'D WANT TO TRY AND SEE IF I COULD DRAW THESE TWO RIGHT.
Waah... I'm so sorry...
BUT I DO REGRET NOT BEING ABLE TO DRAW ARTHUR AND NORA BETTER...
Arthur, the demon haunting Nidell... though he became more than that..
when he was a young boy
SO I DECIDED TO CHANGE EACH OF THEM INTO WHAT I WOULD IMAGINE THEIR PERSONI-FIED OBJECT WOULD BE.
I STARTED WITH "NIDELL AND COCO", BUT IT LACKED IMPACT.
Kind of like the famous Jack 'o Lantern
A square-handled hand lantern. Or even just a hand lantern...
I DECIDED COCO'S IMAGE WAS THAT OF A LANTERN.
...but it's not anything grand or fancy... You see...
...b-...
It embarrasses me to say it...
"WHAT'S THE MEANING BEHIND THE TITLE?"
THE QUESTION I'M ASKED MOST OFTEN IS...
and Lantern Bolt


Bolt and Lantern
AND I DECIDED HE WAS LIKE A "SCREW", OR A "BOLT". (螺子)
Nidell really is a bit twisted, isn't he?
He was the straight sort, but he got a little bent.
I THOUGHT OF HOW HE'S "UPRIGHT", BUT ALSO A LITTLE "TWISTED".
BUT IT WAS TOO HARD TO READ, SO...
Though I love the stroke order of these kanji!
I PLANNED TO HAVE NIDELL BE 蝶番, OR "DOOR-HINGE",

SUGGESTED A NUMBER OF ALTERNATIVES TO NIDELL'S "BOLT" IMAGE...
Those are a bit ordinary...
It's already over, guys
Ha ha ha ha ha
oh! Or "Coconut and Lantern"?
How about "Eggplant and Lantern"?
HOWEVER, MY FRIENDS AND ACQUAIN-TANCES ...


謝!!
Many thanks!!
AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST, THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR HELP WITH THE MANUSCRIPT, KANOE MIZUKI-SAN, MOCHIKO-SAN, KONDO KAZUKI-SAN, HEAD-EDITOR M-SAN WHOM I'M MUCH OBLIGED TO, AND TO EVERYONE WHO'S BOUGHT THIS BOOK! LET'S MEET AGAIN SOMEWHERE!
MANY THINGS HAPPENED ALONG THE WAY, BUT I HAD A GREAT TIME AND I'M REALLY HAPPY I GOT TO DRAW THIS STORY! I'D LOVE TO HEAR WHAT YOU THINK!

Kadokawa Comics A

Kadokawa Comics Ace
螺子とランタン [Neji to Rantan] Bolt and Lantern
by
Asuka Katsura

First Edition Published: 11/26/2004

Published by:
Onoue Ichiro

Publishing House:
Kadokawa Shoten Co
Address: 〒102-8177東京都千代田区富士見2-13-3
〒102-8177 Tokyo-to Chiyodaku Bujimi 2-13-3
Telephone: Tokyo - (03)3238-8530 (business) (03)3238-8663 (editorial department)
To transfer: 00130-9-195208

Cover Design:
Jinguuji Noriyuki (ZIN STUDIO)

Printing: Tosho Printing Co.
Binding: Book Coat Line Co.

First Appeared in: Monthly Shonen Ace issues October 2003, January 2004, March 2004, June - August 2004

This book may not be duplicated or reproduced without permission. This is a work of fiction, and bears no relationship to actual events or people.

2004 KADOKAWA SHOTEN, Printed in Japan

©Asuka KATSURA 2004
ISBN4-04-713657-3 C0979

BOLT AND LANTERN

FINAL CHAPTER!

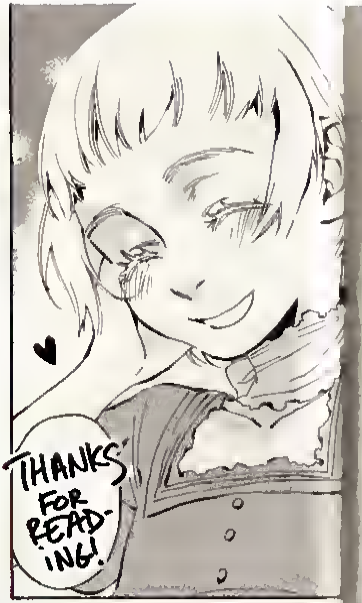
SCANNED,
TRANSLATED
& TYPESET BY:

RIN-UZUKI

PROOFREAD BY:

NEOCACTAR

http://ramsus-kun.webs.com



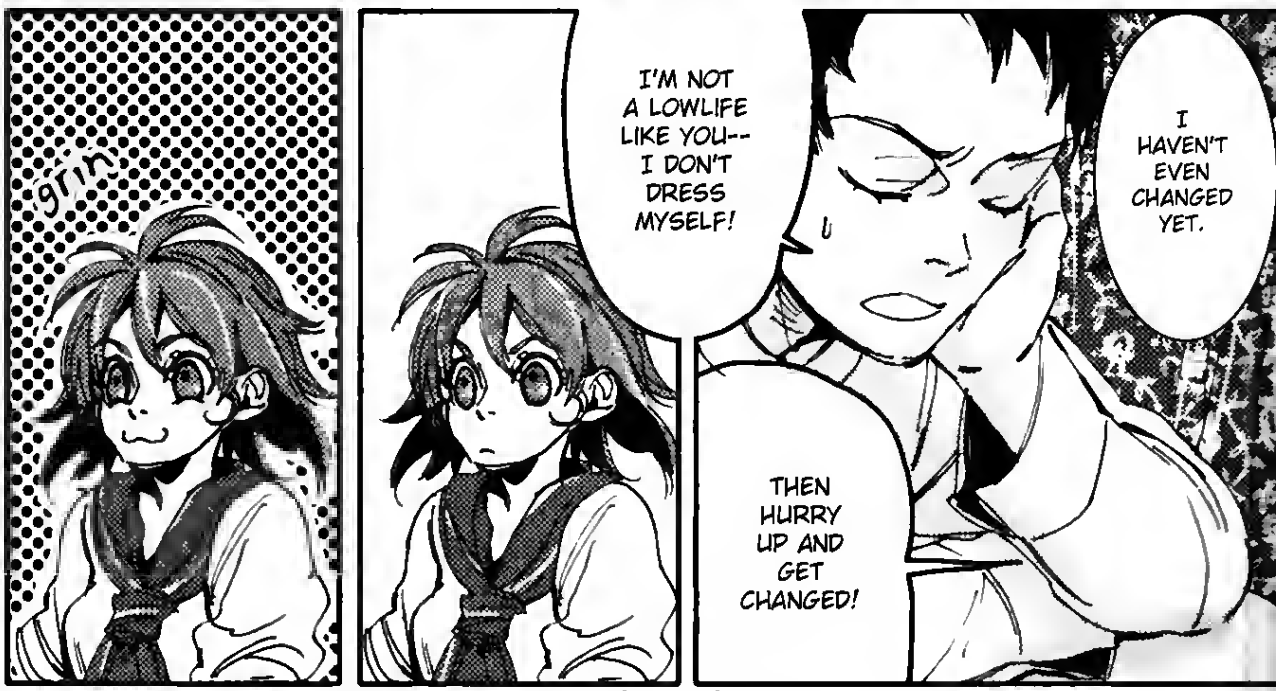
BOLT AND LANTERN 4KOMA THEATER

Imaginary Lesson

LET'S APPLY THIS PROBLEM TO TWO MEN!
Q: When is a woman most attractive?
A: When her skirt flutters up and her feet are visible.
twirl
A: When she's discovered crying alone.
sob sob
WHAT ARE YOU TEACHING HER?
CAN YOU GIVE THE REASON WHY?
WOW, YOU GOT IT!
UH... UM... NUMBER ONE?
WHICH STINKS OF BEING A VIRGIN?
WHICH?

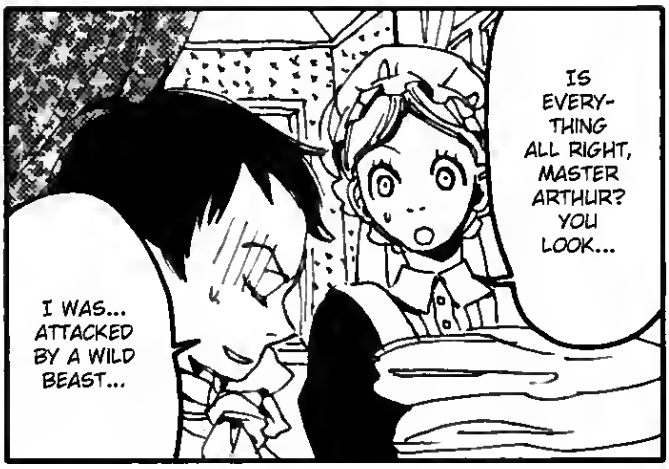
*In this time period, feet were considered especially vulgar.

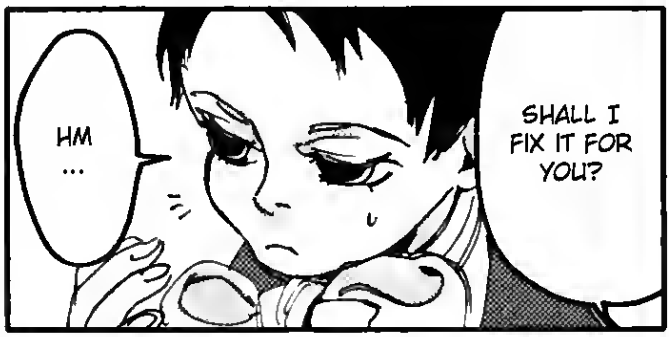
↑ Doesn't really understand.

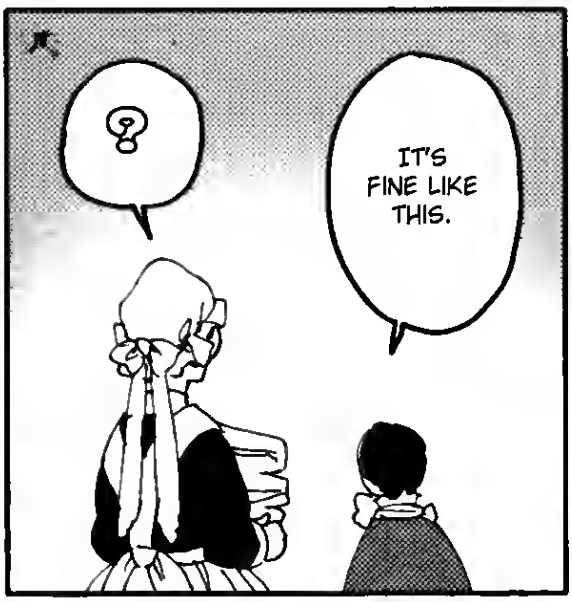


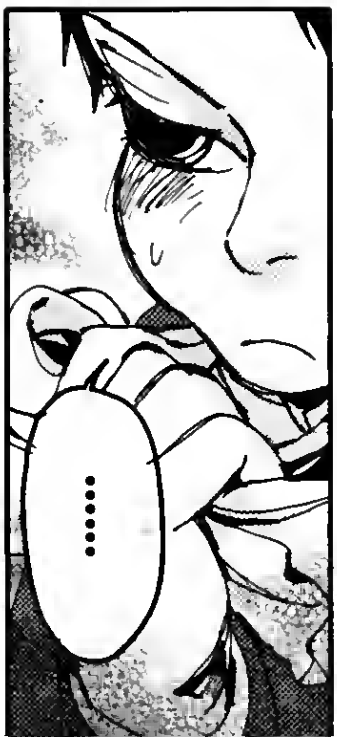
A: GYAAAAH

SFX: SOUND OF TEARING OFF (CLOTHES)









IT'S BECAUSE SHE WAS RAISED IN THE SLUMS

Bolt & Lantern